



ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL

HURST GREEN PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2021-2028: DECISION STATEMENT¹

1. Summary

- 1.1. Following a favourable Referendum result, notice is given that Rother District Council (“the District Council”), at its meeting on 15 December 2025, ‘made’ the Hurst Green Neighbourhood Development Plan 2021-2028, meaning the Neighbourhood Plan comes into force with immediate effect. Hence, it forms part of the statutory Development Plan for the area and, as such, is a key policy document in the determination of planning applications for development in Hurst Green Parish.²
- 1.2. The ‘made’ Hurst Green Parish Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed on the District Council’s website at: [Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan – Rother District Council](#). Also available is the Strategic Environmental Assessment Adoption Statement on the same page.

2. Background

- 2.1. Upon application by Hurst Green Parish Council (“the Parish Council”), as the qualifying body, the District Council designated Hurst Green Parish as a ‘Neighbourhood Area’, under Part 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, on 10 April 2017.
- 2.2. Following Regulation 14 consultation on a draft version, a ‘Submission’ version of the Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan was prepared and submitted to the District Council in October 2024. A formal public consultation on the ‘Submission’ version of the Plan in line with the Regulations took place between 25 October and 6 December 2024. All duly-made representations were forwarded to an independent Examiner, Mr John Slater, who was appointed by the District Council, with the agreement of the Parish Council, to formally review the Neighbourhood Plan, consider whether it met the basic conditions required by legislation³ and whether it should proceed to referendum.
- 2.3. The examination was undertaken by written representations. The Examiner submitted his report on 28 March 2025 and concluded that, subject to certain modifications, the Neighbourhood Plan met the basic conditions as set out in legislation and could therefore proceed to a local Referendum. He also recommended that the referendum area be the designated Neighbourhood Area (Hurst Green Parish).

¹ In accordance with Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

² The development boundary for Hurst Green in the Neighbourhood Plan supersedes that in the Rother Development and Site Allocations Plan 2019

³ As set out in Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

3. Decision and Reasons

- 3.1. With the incorporation of the Examiner's modifications, the District Council agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan met the basic conditions and other requirements and could be put forward for a local Referendum. This was held on 20 November 2025. It posed the question "*Do you want Rother District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Hurst Green to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?*" The outcome was that 177 (84%) of the 211 people who voted were in favour of the Plan.
- 3.2. Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires that the District Council must 'make' the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the Plan, unless (under Para. 38A(6)) this would breach or would otherwise be incompatible with an EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).
- 3.3. In line with the outcome of the Referendum and having further considered whether making the Neighbourhood Plan would breach or would otherwise be incompatible with any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights, the District Council resolved, at its meeting on 15 December 2025 that:

Hurst Green Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2028 be approved and adopted.

4. Availability of documents

- 4.1. The 'made' Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan, Declaration of Referendum results, SEA Adoption Statement and related documents can be viewed on the Council's website at: [Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan – Rother District Council.](#)
- 4.2. The report to Cabinet in relation to the 'making' of the Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed at: [Agenda Document for Cabinet \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)
- 4.3. The Full Council minutes are available to view at the [full council meeting webpage.](#)
- 4.4. For further information, please contact the Planning Policy Team by email at: planning.strategy@rother.gov.uk or by telephone on 01424 787000.

Lorna Ford, Chief Executive
Rother District Council

23 December 2025